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Jan., 1917—
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NO. 3781.

WEATHER—CLOUDY.

WASHINGTON, D. C. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1917.

ONE CENT in Washington and points suburban
thereof. ELSEWHERE TWO CENTS

LACONIA CASE DEEMED DREADED "OVERT ACT" BY CAPITAL OFFICIALS

"Clear Violation of All Rules of International Law," Declares Secretary of State Lansing.

DISSESSION SPLITS CONGRESS

Lawmakers Spend Day Curtailing Authority Asked by Wilson—La Follette Blocks Discussion of Subject in Senate.

The tragedy of the Laconia, with the reported loss of ten American lives, startled Washington yesterday into a realization that the long-dreaded "overt act" had at last arrived.

Undeterred by this new war menace Congress spent the day modifying and curtailing the broad powers and authority that President Wilson had asked, and in the Senate Senator La Follette blocked all immediate consideration of the subject.

NO LONGER CAN DELAY ACTION.

An ominous calm hung over the White House and the State Department all day, officials stating their belief the government could no longer delay action. But in Congress the wave of pacifism showed new strength, and the Laconia sinking did not serve to check it.

The Congressional battle over the "next step" was waged all day and alarmed administration leaders who believed that the one thing necessary to crystallize support for the President was a tragedy and a revelation of German purpose such as the sinking of the Cunard liner showed.

VIOLATION OF WORLD LAW.

The deaths of Mary E. Hoy and Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, in the sinking of the Laconia, were declared by the administration to be a "plain violation of international law." The cold formal report of Consul Frost, at Queenstown, described the two American women as "dead from exposure and bodies lost at sea."

But behind the official language Washington last night saw the whole breadth and scope of the German submarine ruthlessness with the full possible effect on American rights. The Laconia was described as another "Lusitania case," and administration officials made it plain that the "next step" to protect American rights at sea was now inevitable. It was stated that whether the President secures Congressional sanction for his authority to arm merchant ships or not, before many days American vessels, armed force and after, with American gunners aboard, will be defying the German war zone.

The President is convinced that under the Constitution he has authority to arm American vessels, and he proposes to use it, it was stated last night. The significant announcement that the Navy Department today will open bids for a supply of guns suitable for use on merchant ships was forthcoming yesterday.

The reports of Consul Frost on the Laconia sinking were laid before the President yesterday by Secretary of State Lansing, and after the conference the Secretary announced that the Laconia case was a clear violation of all the rules of international law. While he would not say whether the tragedy was regarded as the "overt act" necessary to precipitate the "next step," administration officials generally declared that the situation was fraught with grave possibilities.

Baltimore Negro Killed.

Consul Frost last night reported the death of an American negro on the Laconia. Earlier he had reported five drowned and five, including the two American women, dead from exposure. The Laconia was twice torpedoed, the second time while the passengers and crew were leaving the doomed vessel. Last night it was stated that the circumstances of the case demonstrated beyond doubt that German submarine commanders were prepared to go to the full extent of ruthlessness outlined in the war-zone order which became effective February 1, and that there was no hope of averting action by the United States to meet the German campaign.

A day of hurried and chaotic conferences at the Capitol and the White House culminated last night in the halting of all action toward granting the President authority to handle the situation. Wide and apparently bitter division of opinion in both House and Senate made it clear that the desired authority will not be forthcoming without a legislative battle.

Returns to Capitol.

Back to the Capitol went the Postmaster General. The House Committee met once more, and after a vain effort to agree, abandoned all efforts for the night, and arranged to meet today. After action had been blocked in the Senate, it was expected that the committee would meet today.

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LIQUOR BATTLE DECISION TODAY

Wet Forces Will Bitterly Contest Prohibition Bill and Battle for Vote.

The battle between the "wets" and "drys" will be on this afternoon. Both sides marked time yesterday awaiting the main clash on the floor of the House. The District Committee reported the Sheppard bill with more than forty amendments. The Rules Committee retaliated against this report, which they consider was constructed to encourage a filibuster, by amending the rule that they will report to the House. The amended rule provides for two hours' general debate, one-half of this time to be controlled by Representative Barkley for the "drys" and the other one-half by Representative Gould, of New York, for the "wets."

Amendment No. 1 will be voted on in the order in which they appear in the printed draft of the report of the District Committee. Limited to One Hour. It is further provided that the amendments from twenty-six to forty-three in the bill will be considered as nondivisible and must be debated as one amendment. One hour only is allowed for debate on amendments other than committee amendments.

As the situation stood last night the "wets" had the whole argument upon the referendum clause of Representative Gallivan.

Representative Gallivan has said that if the Sheppard bill is passed without his amendment, he will vote against a Democratic organization of the Sixty-fifth Congress.

Other members of Congress who favor the referendum clause and are against the Sheppard bill, asserted that they will conduct a filibuster in the House unless a Democratic organization of the Sixty-fifth Congress is formed.

The "drys" maintain that the "wets" are trying to push through a bluff and that the roll call on the first amendment will prove the real "show-down."

The referendum clause of the Sheppard bill was passed yesterday to each member of the House a letter which says

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THUG FELS GIRL

Miss Juanita Lusk Sand-bagged and Robbed by Negro.

Knocked down by a blow from a sand-bag in the hand of a negro, Miss Juanita Lusk, 1215 O street northwest, while walking in fashionable Massachusetts avenue early last evening narrowly escaped death. The assault was committed in front of the home of Samuel Ross, 2223 Massachusetts avenue, shortly before 8 o'clock. Miss Lusk was robbed of her purse, which contained a small amount of money and her watch key.

She had been visiting friends and was crossing Sheridan Circle when she first noticed that she was being followed. She said, "I walked down Massachusetts avenue and at Twenty-first street a figure stepped from behind a tree. I grabbed my moon hand-bag tightly and walked alone. In front of Mr. Ross' residence I was struck. I fell to the ground, but held my bag and screamed. The negro tore it from my hand, and ran down Massachusetts avenue."

Miss Lusk was conveyed to the Emergency Hospital where her wound was dressed and then taken home. A suspect was arrested by Detectives C. H. Bradley and A. B. Scribner within an hour, but Miss Lusk couldn't identify him.

21 VESSELS TORPEDOED BY GERMAN SUBMARINES

U-Boats Report Sinking of 11 Steamers, 2 Sailing Ships, and 8 Trawlers.

Berlin (via Sayville wireless, delayed), Feb. 27.—German submarines have reported the sinking of twenty-one ships. Eleven were steamers, two were sailing ships and eight were trawlers.

Among the steamers sunk was the British transport A-19, The White Star liner, 12,000 tons, was sunk on February 12 while on its way from Liverpool to Plymouth. Of the remaining ships were one of 8,500 tons with coal; another of 1,800 tons with general cargo; another of 3,000 tons with saltpeetre.

This information was given out through the official Overseas News Agency.

'Who's Boss?' Issue Wrecks Honeymoon in 10 Minutes

New York, Feb. 27.—"I'm going to be boss, hand over your money," remarked Mrs. Anna Friedman, bride, 65 years old, to her husband, Joseph, 68, a few minutes after they were married in the Municipal building.

"Nothing doing," promptly returned the bridegroom. "I've been, my own boss since I left my mother's home 50 years ago, and it's too late to change now."

Nothing doing, Anna. The wedding began an argument which resulted in the newly married couple having a violent quarrel, and their parting ten minutes after the marriage ceremony. The wedding took place seven months ago, and the couple had not met each other since till they appeared in the Domestic Relations Court, Mrs. Friedman, who lives at 206 East 102d street, having sued for support.

Mr. Friedman is a tutor. The magistrate, after hearing their stories of the affair, said:

"You were both too old to think of marrying. I order Friedman to pay his wife \$1 a week."

An Idea, Heavens, an Idea! How to Get Potatoes Cheap

Gloucester, Mass., Feb. 27.—Here's New England thrift for you.

A man here advertised in a local paper that he would give \$5 for the best specimen potato sent him during a certain period. Despite the present value of tubers, fine specimens came in, every day until, at the close of the contest he had six barrels of choice murphys—all for \$5.

ASK GRUB CENSUS IN CITY'S STORES

Hold Up of Necessities for Higher Prices Suspected by Probers.

The Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday suggested to President O. P. Newman, of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, that an inventory of all food in the hands of dealers and in storage in Washington be taken. If it be found that an actual shortage exists, the commission stands ready to have trainloads of food rushed to the National Capital. If there is no shortage, the Department of Justice will put food speculators who have artificially inflated prices, in jail.

Wherever it is found that dealers have hoarded prices unwarrantably, the federal government will go the limit of the law to prosecute those responsible. Wherever a real shortage is found to exist, the Interstate Commerce Commission will compel the railroads to rush in supplies for immediate relief.

Officials believe such a policy, if consistently pursued, will soon bring food prices tumbling.

Holds Courts Responsible. In the midst of food-price discussion, Attorney General Gregory yesterday charged that Federal judges are but half-hearted in their attempts to enforce the Sherman anti-trust law.

"I regret to say that a number of the Federal judges have been and are still apparently reluctant to enforce the Sherman law," said Mr. Gregory. "Unconsciously they permit their own views as to what the law should be to affect their construction of the law as it is written."

The attorney general declared there should be more statutes prohibiting charging of unreasonable prices for goods carried in interstate commerce. He said associations of dealers should be forced to prove that their prices are reasonable.

10,000 Cars Now Tied Up. More than 10,000 freight cars are tied up in terminals in and around New York City, the Interstate Commerce Commission announced last night.

The committee appointed by the Commissioners of the District to investigate the food situation here organized yesterday morning and there was mention of a municipal market in Washington to sell food at lower prices.

The committee comprises George M. Roberts, superintendent of weights, measures and markets; Charles F. Nesbitt, superintendent of insurance, and Dr. W. C. Woodward, Health Officer.

WOMEN IN RIOT

New Yorkers Resent Proposed Substitution of Rice.

(By the International News Service.) New York, Feb. 27.—Resentment at the proposed sale of rice by the mayor's committee on the food supply led to renewed riots and anti-high-price demonstrations by women today.

Twelve arrests were made and four women sent to jail. Policemen were attacked and butchers threatened with their own knives when attempts to buy boycotted vegetables and meats were discovered by women pickets about the stores.

While thirty open-air mass meetings were called in different parts of the city, Mrs. Ida Harris, president of the Mothers' Vigilant League, led a lone anti-rice demonstration in the financial district. She carried a sign reading:

"We Americans can't live on rice. We want foodstuffs to come down in price. Speculators and robbers will not survive by lowering the standards of American life."

Nearly 1,500 women met at 115 East Broadway and passed resolutions refusing to eat rice. They decided to continue the boycott on chickens, onions, potatoes and lima beans. Not a pound of these articles was sold anywhere in the affected districts, although prices were reduced 10 per cent.

Although patrolmen were instructed to arrest women only where it was impossible to enforce peace by warnings, rioting continued in many quarters of the city. Slaughter houses remained closed and grocery shops were closely guarded against customers who wished to buy "contraband" vegetables.

Forty women entered the butcher shop of Solomon Stelmets in East Fourth street and threatened him with his cleaver. The police who came to his rescue were attacked. Two women were sent to jail in default of their fines.

Pastor, Priest, and Rabbi Set to Watch Each Other

Hollidaysburg, Pa., Feb. 27.—The will of Randolph McMullen, a wealthy farmer of Tyrone township, probated here, directs that his estate be divided under the supervision of three trustees to be appointed by the court, consisting of a Protestant clergyman, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi.

The reason expressed in the will for this request is that each trustee will watch the other and that every cent given to charity will be rightly applied.

The estate, estimated to be worth \$100,000, will be divided among the poor of Blair, Huntingdon, and Cambria counties.

FIRE PLOT FRUSTRATED

New York, Feb. 27.—A plot to set fire to a tenement house in Second avenue, containing two families, was frustrated by the police today. George Marino, proprietor of a barber shop on the second floor of the building, confessed that he planned to fire the building and cover up the deed with evidences of "black-hand" literature.

Frank Quigley, 22, of Philadelphia, was to have fired the building. Instead Quigley notified the police of Marino's plot. Marino said he wanted the \$1,500 insurance on his shop, according to the police.

SOMEBODY WANTS WHAT YOU DON'T

Sell or buy through the classified columns of

The Washington Herald

AMERICA UNNEUTRAL, CHANCELLOR DECLARES, DENOUNCING U.S. STAND

LACONIA PEOPLE TELL OF TERROR

Adrift Five Hours in Eight Boats Tossed About by Violent Waves.

(By the International News Service.) Queenstown, Feb. 27.—From quivering lips of pale and agony-stricken men and women came today, piece by piece, the first full story of the Laconia disaster. Queenstown, hardened by many a tale of horror lived through by countless souls a few miles off shore; Queenstown, the first piece of land, the first warm refuge for the victims of scores of sea catastrophes in two years and a half, stands against tonight at the narrative of the passengers of the Laconia, of whom thirteen—by a miracle only thirteen—were believed to have been killed.

For the Lusitania was sent to the bottom in broad daylight. The Laconia's passengers and crew drifted aimlessly for five hours in eight boats tossed by violent waves twelve feet high—and all around was deep darkness in which flares and rockets seemed ridiculous mockery.

Three things stand out in the disaster: The death from exposure of two American women, Mrs. and Miss Hoy—"buried at sea" was the Laconia official telegram from the American Consul.

Radio Operators Heroes. The bravery of Mrs. Frank Harris, an American woman, will go down in the history of marine disasters as the heroine of the Laconia.

The liner's two wireless operators stuck to the ship until the radio room was almost on a level with the sea as it greedily swallowed up the ocean giant, and they kept sending the fateful S O S signal.

At a speed of seventeen knots, the Laconia was gliding through the waters of the Irish Sea, Monday night, on the last lap of her voyage from New York to Liverpool. It then had been any fear among her passengers, it had been pretty well dispelled by the proximity of the liner's destination and the British navy. But every man, woman, or child was ready for any eventuality. Under the cautious direction of her master, Captain Irvine, the ship's passengers and crew had drilled every day from the time they left the Statue of Liberty behind. Everything was prepared to the minutest detail.

Majority Had Gone to Bed. A great majority of the passengers had gone to bed. Those who still walked to and fro on the deck. In the saloons men smoked, played cards, or told stories. Of all those on board, probably only the captain, patrolling the bridge on 24-hour vigil, knew that the waters through which the liner was just then speeding, were favorite hunting grounds of the U-boats; that the Laconia was approaching the Lusitania's grave.

The bridge crew had just sounded the first of the two bells announcing "10.30." The second was drowned in a crash that shook the sea leviathan as if it were a skeleton. A torpedo had struck on the starboard about the engine room, penetrating the ship's vital, the engines. A second later the huge vessel, now a hopeless monster and a tool of the sea, stood

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FOUR MORE SHIPS SUNK IN "RUTHLESS WARFARE"

Latest Losses Bring Total of Sub Victims Up to 187.

New York, Feb. 27.—Four vessels with a total tonnage of 8,500 were reported today as having been sunk by U-boats. REPORTED DUE TODAY: The Seagull, British, 144 tons. The Lamentin, French, 376 tons. The Titania, British, 4,445 tons. The Hannah Crossfield, British, 151 tons. Previously reported, 185 ships, 428,431 tons. Grand total to date, 189 ships, 436,961 tons.

Potato Is Legal Tender; Buys Him Two Big Beers

Monroe, Wis., Feb. 27.—A potato passed as legal tender for two glasses of beer here today.

A customer, having drained his glass, drew from his pocket a white potato about the size of a hen's egg and deposited it regretfully on the bar.

The bartender rang up the cash register, deposited the tuber, and then turned to the customer.

"I haven't a bit of small change. Better drink the rest of it up," he suggested.

The customer agreed, and thus the entire potato was squandered.

Crew "Kid" Germany in Song As Ship Crosses Death Zone

Bordeaux, Feb. 27.—The American crew of the tank steamer Gold Shell, the first American vessel to leave the United States for the other side of the Atlantic after Germany's new submarine warfare was inaugurated, thought so little of the underwater danger as they passed through the zone that they lined the steamer's rails singing parodies on "Deutschland über alles."

Capt. James, the vessel's commander, said today that no sign of submarines was seen.

The Gold Shell left Delaware Capes February 8 and arrived here just a few hours ahead of the American freighter Orleans.

KILLS 3 CHILDREN AND SELF

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 27.—Because he preferred to see his three children dead than hungry, Frank Stader, 32, early today shot and killed them as they slept, and then killed himself.

Stader left two letters, one to a minister, and one to a policeman, explaining his act. Since the death of his wife a year ago his employment had been irregular, his furniture was mortgaged and he reasoned that he and his children would better be dead than living.

LAWS ENFORCED IN ONE-SIDED WAY, VONHOLLWEG SAYS

German Leader Avers International Principles Have Been Applied Only Against Germany.

(By the International News Service.) Berlin, via Sayville wireless, Feb. 27.—In the most spirited speech of his career, Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg, Imperial German chancellor, today bitterly attacked the United States for "submission to England's power and control," and "one-sided neutrality."

He characterized the manner in which America broke diplomatic relations with Germany as "probably without precedent in history."

The only notification of the break Germany received, he said, were "the spoken words" of Ambassador Gerard to Foreign Secretary Zimmermann and Mr. Gerard's request for his passports.

CHANCELLOR DECIDEDLY PROTESTS. The only basis on which he could explain the break, he added, was an unofficial version of President Wilson's speech in the Senate, announcing the diplomatic rupture.

Against the assertions made in that speech, the Chancellor said he "must decidedly protest." He refuted the charge that Germany had broken her pledges. Germany, he said, had never given unconditional pledges, but had "openly and expressly" declared in her note of May 4, 1916, that if the United States could not bring England to terms and break the "starvation blockade," Germany would find herself face to face with a new situation.

In such a new situation, he explained, Germany did find herself when, after nine months of waiting, the United States had done nothing to re-establish the freedom of the seas.

ALLEGES INCONSISTENCY. The chancellor accused the United States of inconsistency in the matter of arms, exports and neutrality in general. He pointed to the embargo on arms to Mexico in 1913, justified by the President in pointing to "best usages of international law."

"One day," said the chancellor, "in 1914, these usages were apparently no longer considered good."

He asserted that the break with Germany and the "attempted mobilization of all neutrals against us," will not serve the protection of the freedom of the seas or bring about a peace as outlined by President Wilson, "but must rather have the effect of an encouraged attempt to starve Germany and multiply the bloodshed."

"SUBMITTED TO ENGLAND." He said the only reason England had not destroyed American lives was because America "voluntarily submitted to the English orders and because England therefore, could attain her object without using force."

In view of the entire situation, the chancellor asserted there was for Germany "no backward" possible, the only watchword being "ahead."

The speaker called the entente answer to President Wilson's message last December "a document of barbarian hatred and mockery."

All the difficulties suffered by neutrals in this war, he said, were due to "England's tyranny of the sea," and added:

"We will and we shall break this enslavement of all non-English trade." He was sure, he said, that the time would come when the neutrals would thank Germany for her firmness.

The chancellor made a significant statement regarding peace, taken by some as foreshadowing a German demand for indemnity. He said Germany desired to terminate the war "by a lasting peace which will grant us reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantees for the existence and the future of a strong Germany. That is our aim—nothing less and nothing more."

He expressed full confidence in the success of unrestricted U-boat warfare, the results of which up-to-date, he said, already had passed all expectations.

Concluding, he predicted that "the coming months" would bring peace.

"Fight and Win Victory." The chancellor's speech follows:

"While our soldiers on the front stand in the drum fire of the warfare, and our submarines are defying death hastening through the sea, and while we at home have no other task, absolutely none other, but to produce munitions, ammunition, and food, and distribute victuals justly among the population; in the midst of this struggle for life and for the future of our empire, a struggle intensified to the extreme, there is only one necessity that is the watchword of the day, and that dominates all questions of

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Husband Talks in Sleep; Wife Wins \$840 Verdict

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 27.—John Greene, his wife said, talked in his sleep, and said something about "giving Nellie a gold watch." Now Mrs. Greene's name is Ellen, but she is never known or spoken of as "Nellie."

But her neighbor, Mrs. Eleanor Biggs, was known to her, to her husband, and her other intimate friends, as "Nellie," and there was no record of Mrs. Greene getting a gold watch.

Plainly, this was a case for investigation. The "green-eyed monster" arrived and took an energetic part, as is his wont, in the affairs of the Greene family.

"Anxious patience" was rewarded by the discovery in the pocket of her husband's coat, when he had accidentally fell into it, of an old-fashioned tincture of a pretty young girl.

Whomsoever she fancied the tincture to resemble, the result was an action to the courts to recover \$5,000 for the loss of her husband's love and affections, and the defendant was Mrs. Biggs.

The jury gave Mrs. Greene a verdict for \$840.

BRYAN COMING TO CAPITAL

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 27.—William Jennings Bryan is opposed to granting to President Wilson the powers he asked from Congress yesterday. Bryan said today he will leave at once for Washington to use his influence against Congress, granting such wide powers. He has cancelled all speaking engagements in preparation for his going to the Capital.

JUMPS TRACK ON TRESTLE

Taylorstown, Pa., Feb. 27.—The lives of nearly 200 passengers on the Baltimore and Ohio Cincinnati-Pittsburgh express, were endangered today when the pony trucks of the engine jumped the track as the train neared a fifty-foot trestle here. The train was traveling forty-five miles an hour and crossed the long trestle before it could be stopped.

RALPH W. LEE INSURANCE

508 Colorado Building.